concerted efforts through implementation of various poverty alleviation programmes. The integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) aims to provide self-employment opportunities to the rural poor by providing assistance in the form of term-credit by Banks and subsidy by the Government for taking up income-generating economic activities. Two other Self-employment schemes are Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM) & Development of Women & Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) which are also being implemented for the benefit of the rural poor. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) is another major poverty alleviation programme being implemented all over the country. This aims of giving wage-employment to rural poor. Besides, since 1993-94, two more wage employment programmes are being implemented. The Intensified JRY is implemented in 120 backward districts of the country, which relatively have more under-employment & un-employment The other programme via Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) aims at providing at least 100 days of wage-employment to a maximum of two adults who are seeking and needing employment per family, living below the poverty line during a year and this scheme is being implemented in more than 2,000 backward blocks of the country.

Need for interaction between industrial sector and National Research Laboratories

779. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is at present a great need for interaction between the industrial sector and national research laboratories of the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in the absence of any interaction, country's industry rely more on imported technology;

(c) whether Government propose to take steps to boost the interaction between the two; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has been having regular interaction with industries and entrepreneurs. In the context of econdmin liberalisation recognising the need to assist the small scale industry, CSIR jointly with National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) and Asian & Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT), New Delhi a U.N. organisation, organised a series of eight workshop at major SSI clusters in the country viz. Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Bombay, Calcutta Indore, Ludhiana, Madras and New Delhi between July-September, 1994. The objectives of the workshops was to expose the SSI units to the national and international technological developments of relevance and to assist them in technology acquisition and modernisation. In addition two more workshops were held during Techmart India '94 exposition at New Delhi. The first workshop was on 'Emerging Technologies: opportunities for SMEs in the areas of Biotechnology and New Materials' and the second workshop was on 'Electronics and Electrical Industry'. Besides the above interactions at the CSIR level, individual CSIR laboratories organise workshops/seminars for specific industrial sectors, which average to around 50 per year. Thus interaction between CSIR and industry has been at an adequate level. To ensure the participation of the industry from the policy formulation stage their representation has been ensured in the decision making bodies like

Advisory Board at CSIR Headquarters level and Research Council at laboratory level. Ever since this mechanism has come into being, the external cash flow by way of interaction with industry etc. has increased and stood at Rs. 94.12 crores at the end of the year 1993-94.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Expenditure on Science

780. SHRI K. R. MALKANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an alarming fall in the expenditure on Science from 1 per cent of GNP to 0.83 per cent, as reported in 'The Hindu' dated the 20th January, 1995;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 40 per cent of the world's software engineers are Indians and our country's earnings out of the software market are only 0.1 per cent; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) The Research and Development expenditure has increased in absolute terms from Rs 3347.26 crores in 1988-89 to Rs. 5141.64 crores in 1992-93; while R and D expenditure was 0.96 per cent of GNP in 1988-89 it is 0 83 per cent of GNP in 1992-93.

(b) and (c) The world market for software is estimated to be US $ 300 billion Indian export of computer software during 1993-94 were valued at Rs. 1020 crores.

Scientific Research

781. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

SHRI SARADA MOHANTI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in Indian Express dated the 19th February, 1995 under the caption "Corruption harming scientific research", if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(b) whether it is a fact that most of the scientific research in India is a plain emulation of Western science; and

(c) what is the number of patents obtained by the country during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has seen the news item published in the Indian Farmers dated 19.2.1995.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) About 1180 Indian patents have been granted.

Regional Centre for Space Science and technology education

782. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

SHRI N GIRI PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's offer to host